

Appln No. 10/706,024  
Amdt date October 8, 2008  
Reply to Office action of May 8, 2008

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

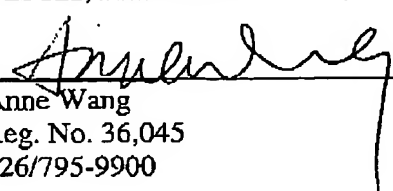
In the Final rejection dated May 8, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 5-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Griffin (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,870) with evidence from Davies, et al., "The Rate Dependence of Confor Polyurethane Foams," *Cellular Polymers*, vol. 18, no. 2 (1999), and rejected claims 3-6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over Griffin. However, applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite that during wrapping, the shaft of the tip section is heated sufficiently to soften the material of the tip section shaft, and that the shaft is heated using a heating block or rod configured to form a cradle to receive a portion of the tip section adjacent the exit hole. In light of these amendments to claim 1, Applicant has canceled claim 8 and amended claim 9 to depend from claim 1. The recited heating method achieves better results since it enables particularly localized heating. See specification, page 5, line 30 to page 6, line 5. Neither Griffin nor Davies teaches or suggests the recited features. Accordingly, independent claim 1, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-7 and 9, are allowable over Griffin and Davies.

Claims 1-7 and 9 now remain pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1 for clarity, canceled claim 8, and amended claim 9 solely to correct the dependency of that claim in light of the cancellation of claim 9. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims and drawings, and no new matter is presented. In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all of pending claim 1-7 and 9 are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests a timely indication of allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's counsel at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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